

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

*Re: Telephone Number Portability, BellSouth Corporation Petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or Waiver, Order*

Through this Notice, the Commission permits carriers to recover the costs that they have incurred to implement intermodal number portability, which allows consumers to bring their telephone numbers with them when they switch providers, whether wireless or wireline. Congress viewed the ability of consumers to keep their phone numbers to be an important component of the effort to develop local phone competition and consumer choice.

I write separately to emphasize that this Commission has an obligation to ensure that carriers seeking to recover their costs of intermodal portability meet strict standards. The Commission's rules require these carriers to file detailed cost support data to demonstrate the reasonableness of these costs. Our review of these filings is essential because it is consumers who ultimately bear these costs. Indeed, we have heard recently from consumer advocates who ask us to redouble our efforts to oversee the "line item" charges on consumer bills. These consumer advocates raise concerns about the legitimacy and accuracy of many of these charges. They raise important questions about the ability of consumers to comparison shop and to ascertain the true costs of competing services. I hope that we will make our review of these concerns a priority.